

!! STOP PRESS !!
HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL
CONFIRMED AS KEY NOTE SPEAKER



YSS Conference Invitation
TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD
Worcester Rugby Club

Direct access to M5 motorway, free parking, state of the art facilities

The objective of this conference is to explore current thinking, best practice and policy regarding the period of life when young people emerge into adulthood. Currently adulthood is reached at a wide range of arbitrary ages set at 16, 17, 18, 21 or 24 dependent on which agency or system they are involved with. This can create an incredibly confusing and complex situation for young adults in trying to navigate their way through life and often does not take into account their vulnerability, level of maturity and the wider fast changing cultural aspects of society.

Friday 16th July 2010

Time: 09:30 - 15:00

Only 200 places available

Worcester Rugby Club
For directions [click here](#)

Contact Gabriele Huth:
Tel 01299 252330
TransitionsConference
@yss.org.uk

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS TO DATE

- **Key Note speaker HRH The Princess Royal**
- **Rob Smith: YSS Chief Executive**
- **Sara Llewelin: Chief Executive Barrow Cadbury Trust**
- **Geoff Taylor Smith: Assistant Director Worcestershire Children's Services**
- **Dr Gisella Hanley Santos: Oxford University Centre of Criminology**
- **Vicki Helyar-Cardwell: Catch 22 & National T2A Alliance Policy Officer**
- **Catherine Hennessey: Revolving Doors Partnerships and Development Director**
- **Kerry Devitt: Young People in Focus Researcher**
- **Keith Hoare: Joint Commissioning Officer Worcestershire County Council**

This conference will aim to recognise young adults as a specific group within society and to stimulate fresh thinking about how to meet the needs of vulnerable young adults undergoing this transition.

In particular the conference will focus on those young people who are in the criminal justice system: NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), the looked after system, young carers, young people with emotional and mental health needs, accommodation needs and substance misuse needs.

The conference will have a national, regional and local focus. It will reflect on innovative practice being delivered by a wide range of partner agencies in the voluntary and statutory sectors with links to current projects and research in this area.

HEADLINE TOPICS

- *Emerging research around emotional and cognitive development of young adults*
- *Policy and legislative overview*
- *Criminal Justice (YOS, Probation, Prisons)*
- *Gaps in services*
- *Best practice projects from around the country*
- *Commissioning services*
- *Joined up working between children and adult services*
- *Integrated Youth Support Agenda*
- *Young Adult perspective*
- *Young Carers*
- *Leaving Care*
- *Adult Social Care*
- *ETE (Employment, Training and Education)*
- *Accommodation*
- *Mental and Emotional Health*
- *Substance Misuse*

Who should attend?

This conference is aimed at all levels whether working strategically, as a senior manager, or as a practitioner - it will be of interest to anyone working in or alongside Childrens Services, Adult Services, Probation, Youth Offending Services, Police, Local Authorities and Health Services. It is available to all agencies in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

Booking a Place

Please complete the attached booking form. Delegates will be charged a nominal cost of £50 to cover rental of the venue, lunch, refreshments and handouts. 200 places are available. For enquiries please contact Gabriele Huth on 01299 252330 (voicemail) or email TransitionsConference@yss.org.uk.

Further information including a full agenda will be emailed in due course.

Background Information

The latest research into cognitive development indicates that the human brain continues to mature until at least the age of 25 years, particularly in the areas of judgement, reasoning and impulse control.

The pre-frontal cortex of the brain is relied upon by the majority of mature adults for decision making however 18-25 year olds rely on the amygdala region of the brain which is related to gut reactions and overall emotional responses. That young adult brains are environmentally sensitive and are subject to changes.

Since 2003 YSS has specialised in delivering services tailored to meet the needs of young adults who are in the criminal justice system in partnership with West Mercia Probation Trust and the local Youth Offending Services. Most recently YSS has delivered a national T2A (Transitions 2 Adulthood) pilot project in Worcestershire supported by the Barrow Cadbury Trust. The work of this project is based on these partnership arrangements and specific national research commissioned by the Barrow Cadbury Trust which is available on a dedicated web site www.t2a.org.uk. Further work in this area is now being taken forward on a national level by the National T2A Alliance (a wide group of independent policy, research and service delivery organisations).

The research and practice of the pilot T2A projects support the fact that the issues faced by young adults in the criminal justice system are virtually the same for young adults who are at risk of social exclusion in other circumstances. In particular YSS has specific experience of delivering young adult carers and young adult NEET services which are now benefiting from local policy and practice changes initiated from the experience of delivering T2A. Across the country there is an increasing recognition in a wide range of sectors that policy and practice needs to be changed to reflect the specific needs of young adults.

The social exclusion report in 2005 focused on the complex needs of young adults if they were experiencing poor housing, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, poor health, poor education or long term unemployment. Also that even better resourced young people were experiencing slow track transitions to adulthood that involved staying in post compulsory education, delaying the start in full time employment and becoming parents in their late twenties and thirties, however that those from disadvantaged backgrounds tend to be 'fast tracked' into adulthood finishing education at the minimum age, into unemployment or insecure/badly paid work and early parenthood with all the attendant risks these combinations bring.

YSS

YSS is a leading independent charity working across the West Midlands that supports children, young people, young adults and families at risk of social exclusion. HRH The Princess Royal became the patron of YSS in 2008.

YSS has often been described as being the 'glue' between people and mainstream society; ensuring people have increased opportunities to lead positive and constructive lives. In order to do this we have developed an innovative range of partnerships and projects with the voluntary, private and statutory sectors.

We are committed to delivering flexible services that are constantly adapted in accordance with feedback from people accessing our services and aim to inform and shape policy and practice on a local, regional and national basis.

As an independent organisation YSS has developed a track record since 1985 of engaging and motivating with some of the most vulnerable people in society. During this time all staff and volunteers have believed in 'going that extra mile' and making a real difference to people and the local communities where they live.

This conference coincides with the 10th anniversary of YSS being established as an independent charity.

For more information about YSS please go to www.yss.org.uk